

LEISURE HOUR'S READING

THE PARSON'S SABBATH-BREAKING.

The grass is brown and bleached,
It is more than fifty winters
Since he lived and laughed and preached.
But his memory in New England
No winter shows can kill.
Of his goodness and his drooping
Countless legends linger still.
And among those treasured legends
I hold this one a boon.
How he got in Deacon Crosby's way
On a Sunday afternoon.
He was midway in a sermon,
Most orthodox on grace,
When a sound of distant thunder
Broke the quiet of the place.
Now the melody of the Crosby
Lay full within his sight,
And he glanced from out his window
Which stood upon his right.
And the green and fragrant haystacks
By some there did stand;
Not a meadow like the deacon's
Far or near in all the land.
"Now, my brethren," called the parson,
And called with might and main,
"We must give in Brother Crosby's way,
For our duty now most plain."
And he about the great red Bible,
And looked his sermon down,
For a man could run more swiftly
Than the parson in all the town.
And he ran to the haystacks
With all his strength and speed,
And the congregation followed
All bewildered in his lead.
He had not often on a Sunday
Such a sight as this, I ween,
Of a parson and his people,
A New England town had seen.
With a will they worked and shouted,
And cleared the field space;
And the parson led the singing,
While the wheat rolled down his face.
And it thundered fiercer, louder
And the parson was under cover,
But the hay was under cover,
And the parson had worked best.
Not a moment had been wasted;
The rain was falling fast,
As the parson and his people
Through the village breathless passed.
And again he pelted and pelted
Their places took composed;
And the parson preached the sermon
To "freedom," where it closed.
When the services were ended
The people talking stayed,
And among the sternly pious
There were bitter comments made.
And the good old Deacon Crosby,
A meek and godly man,
Hardly dare rejoice his haystacks
Had been saved on such a plan.
But the parson came down, striding
In haste the narrow aisle,
And the deacon's bent old shoulders
He patted with a smile.
As he said: "No fear, my brother,
Let God think it a sin;
For he sent the sun to make your hay,
And your friends to get it in."
—New York Independent.

ROCKING STONES.

In the neighboring County of Cornwall, rock-stones are plentiful. A very notable one is the "Logan Rock," at Treng Castle, in the Parish of St. Ives, between Penzance and the Land's End. It is a stupendous block of granite, poised on the crest of an immense pile of rocks that rise out into the sea. In size it is about 17 feet in length and 8½ in circumference near its middle, and its weight is probably about 30 tons. The portion in contact with the under rock is of very small extent, and the whole mass is so nicely balanced that the strength of a single man applied to it is sufficient to make it oscillate. A superstitious idea used to be current among the peasantry that although one person might rock the stone, yet no power whatever would prove enough to displace or overthrow it. On the 8th of April, 1834, a young naval Lieutenant named Goldsmith, who was at the time in command of a revenue cutter stationed off the Cornish coast, resolved in a fit of wantonness to put the popular belief to the test. Accompanied by his crew, he took proved the fallacy of the superstition, for in a very short time the united strength of the party was sufficient to "hogg" or move the stone a short distance from its position; but an adjoining rock kept it from going over the cliff. Trifling as the alteration was, it destroyed the rocking property of the huge block, and the mischievous Lieutenant found all the efforts of himself and men unavailing to restore it to the place which for ages it had occupied. His action so enraged the inhabitants of the district that they complained to the authorities, and the result was to receive orders from the admiralty to replace the rock. The task, on account of the peculiar position of the logan-stone, and surrounding rocks, was a very difficult one; but at length, with the assistance of ropes and machinery from Plymouth Dockyard, it was reinstated in its former resting place. It now stands on a short iron bolt, but cannot be "hogg'd" nearly so easily as before it was so mischievously tampered with. There are a number of smaller logan-rocks in this district, the name of "Logan" being taken from the Cornish "loggy," to move to and fro. One formerly in the Parish of Constantine, between Penryn and Helston, was larger than the one last described; but the influence of the elements, which probably first caused its singular shape, has now robbed it of its facility of movement. At St. Ives, four miles from Helston, is one called "Monsieur," the British word for the holy stone. This used to be a fine logan, until it was thrown down by order of Shruball, Oliver Cromwell's Governor of Pendennis Castle, on account of the superstitious adoration with which it was regarded by the inhabitants of the neighborhood. In the southern corner of the isle leading westward to Carn Be Boel are several rocks resting one on another; the uppermost, 16 feet long, 8 high, and 7 broad is so delicately poised that from one position a child can easily "hogg" it. Others occur, also, in various parts of the county, one notable example being at Zimor. Several rocking-stones occur in the 80th Isles, notably one at St. Agnes, very high, and nearly globular in shape. — Chambers' Journal.

QUEEN VICTORIA IN LONDON STREETS.

On our arrival in town, a drive through the park about 6 o'clock was the easiest and pleasantest way from the station homeward, and we were repaid for our little detour by a glimpse of Royalty in the highest form. We were

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